

Clarification on GED, Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate

March 1, 2013

For purposes of graduation rate, students with GEDs count neither as graduates nor as dropouts. In mathematical terms, a student marked as having a GED in ISEE up until the beginning of the graduation rate appeal window would come out of the numerator and the denominator before the graduation rate is calculated. So in the recent appeals window, student appeals related to GED were denied in that they could not be considered graduates, but as is indicated above, nor were they counted as dropouts.

As we transition to a new graduation rate, please understand the following:

- Current NCLB Graduation Rate: GED completers are excluded from the calculation, both from the numerator and the denominator.
- New Cohort Graduation Rate: GED completers are included in the denominator but excluded from the numerator. This is not because they are considered as dropouts, but rather because they are not considered as graduates. We cannot exclude GED completers from the denominator because they are in the cohort.

In addition to reporting the graduation rate, the state does report dropout rates through EdFacts. This is a separate federal reporting requirement that differs from Graduation Rate reporting in the grades and timeframe reported and in the specific reporting deadlines. The state uses ISEE data to complete this federal reporting. For the purposes of the EdFacts Dropout reporting file only, the federal government does exclude GED completers from the dropout rate calculation as long as they complete their GED prior to October 1.

If you believe your data is incorrect in the EdFacts report, it is because the data uploaded to ISEE is incorrect. Please work with your regional ISEE Coordinator to ensure this information is corrected.